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Topic of Research: A study of Bhai Ram Singh's contributions in the paradigm of Indo-Saracenic Architecture

FINDINGS

The Ph.D. titled, A study of Bhai Ram Singh's contributions in the paradigm of Indo-Saracenic Architecture, is an attempt to understand the contributions and relevance of Bhai Ram Singh (1858-1916), a carpenter turned architect, who rose to the position of Principal of Mayo School of Art, Lahore. The research was guided with the following objectives:

1. To discover and study the works of Bhai Ram Singh.
2. To analyze the architectural and aesthetical characteristics of Bhai Ram Singh's works.
3. To determine the contributions and relevance of works of Bhai Ram Singh in Indo-Saracenic Architecture.

The findings of this research relate to evaluating and recognizing the works of Bhai Ram Singh which is essential for discerning the characteristics, contributions, and importance of native artists and craftsmen within the context of Indo-Saracenic architecture. Bhai Ram Singh's contributions to architectural heritage through his distinctive style can offer new perspectives on its understanding and improve its distinguishing characteristics, enriching the current knowledge. The analysis of tangible and intangible characteristics of the works of Bhai Ram Singh have led to a rediscovery of Bhai Ram Singh's works, Building design process, Reflection of carpentry training in Bhai Ram Singh's works, and the Design philosophy as well as his design vocabulary. The research deciphers the characteristic style of Bhai Ram Singh which has helped to understand the impact of Bhai Ram Singh's work and the Architectural expression of Bhai Ram Singh. This research has contributed towards tracing the journey of Bhai Ram Singh from a traditional craftsman to an artist, designer, architect, academician, scholar and a visionary, who carved a niche for himself alongside his British contemporaries despite being from a humble background. The research has attempted towards the advancement and expansion of existing body of knowledge related to works of Bhai Ram Singh. For the first time, complete compilation and documentation of his works in the domains of this research has been done. It led to the discovery of many unexplored works, typologies, skill sets and

proficiencies of Bhai Ram Singh. The architectural and aesthetic analysis of his works has also been undertaken for the first time through this dissertation, to reveal the unique design philosophy and process. Another significant contribution of this research is to establish the connections between geometry followed in traditional carpentry and the design vocabulary of Bhai Ram Singh at the outset. The research also validates the need for preservation of his works, and lays emphasis on taking measures to conserve them before they are lost forever. It is also proposed through this research to include the study of works of Bhai Ram Singh in the curriculum of Art, Architecture and Design courses for dissemination of valuable knowledge embedded in his works. The impact of Bhai Ram Singh's work in contemporary times has also been explained and an alternate vocabulary for Bhai Ram Singh's style has been proposed based on the Architectural expression of Bhai Ram Singh as a significant contribution of present research.